CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A method in a computer system for selecting the visual arrangement of

workspaces and modules in a network management console graphical user interface, the

console having a first zone operable to display tools and a second zone operable to

display workspaces and modules, the method comprising:

        receiving a list of workspace names, each workspace name associated with

a workspace;

        displaying an explorer tool in the first zone, the explorer tool displaying

the list of workspace names;

        receiving from a user an indication that a first workspace name from the

list of workspace names has been selected; and

        displaying in the second zone a first workspace associated with the first

workspace name.

2.   A method, as defined in claim 1 further comprising:

        displaying in the explorer tool a list of module names, each module name

being associated with a module that is associated with the first workspace.

3.   A method as defined in claim 2, further comprising:

        receiving from the user an indication that a first module name from the list

of module names has been selected and, in response thereto, displaying a first module

associated with the first module name in the first workspace.

4.   A method as defined in claim 1, further comprises visually indicating within the explorer tool that the first workspace name has been selected.

5.   A method as defined in claim 3, wherein the list of module names is displayed as a drop-down menu extending from the selected first workspace name.

6.   A method as defined in claim 5, further comprises visually indicating within the explorer tool that the first module name has been selected.

7.   A method as defined in claim 6, wherein the explorer tool further includes a tool bar displaying an edit element, the edit element operable to display a list of explorer layout selection functions.

8.   A method as defined in claim 6, wherein the explorer tool further includes a tool bar and wherein the list of workspace names is displayed as an explorer drop-down menu extending from the tool bar.

9.   A method as defined in 8, wherein the tool bar includes a visual element that is operable to extend or contract the explorer drop-down menu.

10.   A method as defined in claim 3, further comprising:

        receiving from the user an indication that a second module name from the

list of module names has been selected and, in response thereto, displaying the module associated with the second module name in the first workspace.

11.   A method as defined in claim 10, wherein the workspace includes a visual element operable to control a position of the first and second modules within the workspace.

12.   A method as defined in claim 11, wherein the visual element comprises a scroll bar.

13.   A method as defined in claim 3, wherein an object pane and a task pane are displayed in the first module.

14.   A method as defined in claim 13, wherein a work pane is displayed in the first module.

15.   A method as defined in claim 13, wherein the object pane displays a list of objects.

16.   A method as defined in claim 15, wherein the task pane displays a list of tasks associated with the list of objects.

17.   A display device having rendered thereon a network management console for

displaying and accessing objects from a plurality of network resources, comprising:

a second zone rendered in the console, the second zone including a

selected workspace, the selected workspace including at least one module;

a first zone rendered in the console, the first zone including an explorer

5   tool, the explorer tool displaying a list of workspace names and a list of module names,

the list of workspace names including a workspace name associated with the selected

workspace, the list of module names including a module name associated with the at least

one module.

10   18.   A display device as defined in claim 17, wherein the explorer module further

includes an explorer tool bar and wherein the list of workspace names is displayed in a

drop down menu extending from the explorer tool bar.

19.   A display device as defined in claim 18, wherein the list of module names is

15   displayed in a drop down menu extending from the workspace name associated with the

selected workspace.

20.   A display device as defined in claim 19, wherein the explorer further includes a

visual indicator indicating that the workspace associated with the selected workspace

20   name is included in the second zone.

21.   A display device as defined in claim 20, wherein the explorer further includes a

visual indicator indicating that the module associated with the at least one module name

is included in the selected workspace.

22.   A display device as defined in claim 17, wherein the at least one module includes

an object pane displaying a list of objects associated with the at least one module.

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23.   A display device as defined in claim 22, wherein the at least one module includes

an task pane displaying a list of tasks associated with the list of objects.

24.   A display device as defined in claim 23, wherein the at least one module includes

10   an indicator indicating that one of the objects in the list of objects has been selected.

25.   A display device as defined in claim 24, wherein the at least one module includes

an indicator indicating that one of the tasks in the list of tasks has been selected.

15   26.   A display device as defined in claim 25, wherein the at least one module includes

a work pane displaying information related to the selected task and the selected object.

27.   A display device as defined in claim 26, wherein the information related to the

selected task and the selected object displayed in the at least one module includes a

20   property sheet.

28.   A display device as defined in claim 27, wherein the information related to the

selected task and the selected object displayed in the at least one module further includes

a property page.

29. A display device as defined in claim 23, wherein the at least one module includes an indicator indicating that two of the objects in the list of objects have been selected.

5   30. A display device as defined in claim 29, wherein the at least one module includes an indicator indicating that one of the tasks of the list of tasks has been selected.

31. A display device as defined in claim 30, wherein the at least one module includes a work pane displaying information related to the selected task and the selected objects.

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32. A display device as defined in claim 30, wherein the information related to the selected task and the selected objects comprises a property page associated with a first of the two selected objects and a property page associated with a second of the two selected objects.

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